pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to look into the circumstances leading to conversion of tribals and others;

(b) whether a demand for white paper on the activities of Christian Missionaries in India has been received recently; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) According to Article 25(1) of the Constitution of India, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion subject to public order, morality and health. Since, 'Public Order' is listed as item No. 1 of List-II State List of 7th Schedule of the Constitution, problems related to conversions are to be taken care of by the State Governments. Some States have enacted legislation providing for prohibition of conversion from one religion to another by use of force or allurement/inducement or by fradulent means.

However, there is no proposal to issue a White Paper on the activities of Christian Missionaries in India.

Stringent Punishment for Traffic Violators

2381. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fatal road accidents have increased during the past two years due to negligent driving of vehicles;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the violators of traffic rules are bailed out by courts in the absence of provision for stringent punishment in the existing Indian Penal Code;

(c) if so, whether Government are contemplating to amend the IPC to provide stringent punishment for violators of traffic rules, to prevent deaths of innocent persons due to their negligent driving; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Available information in this regard is given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below)

(b) to (d) Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Constitution of India. The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crime is essentially the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government has been providing financial assistance to the State Governments for strengthening their policing infrastructure as well as for improving administration of criminal Justice system.

The law Commission of India, which undertook a comprehensive review of the IPC, has, inter alia, recommended insertion of the following sections in the IPC; •

"279A. Whoever knowingly or negligently drives or permits any person to drive any vehicle on a public way when that vehicle is in such a state or so loaded as to endanger life, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine, or with both.

Explanation. In this section—

(a) "vehicle" includes any vessel; and

(b) "public way" includes any public water-way".

"304.A(2) Whoever by rash or negligent driving of any vehicle causes the death of any person or causes any injury which is likey to cause the death of such person, the causing of such death not amounting to culpable horricide, and drives or runs away without informing any police station within a reasonable time, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine".

Since the Criminal Law is on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution and the Criminal laws are administered by the State Governments, the Report of the Law Commission has been sent to State Governments, for their views.

Statement

Number of persons Killed in Road Accidents During 1996 and 1997

S.N	. State/UT	1996	1997
I.	Andhra Pradesh	7194	8395
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	101	70
3.	Assam	714	691
4.	Bihar	2596	2250
5.	Goa	220	223
6.	Gujarat	4607	4835
7.	Haryana	1563	1981
8.	Himachal Pradesh	709	718
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	593	2054
10.	Karnataka	4865	5583
11.	Kerala	2780	2698
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4938	4910
13.	Maharashtra	8712	7934
14.	Manipur	99	105
15.	Meghalaya	89	61
16.	Mizoram	82	32
17.	Nagaland	99	38
18.	Orissa	1693	1739
19.	Punjab	1041	783
20.	Rajasthan	4260	5448
21.	Sikkim	30	24
22.	Tamil Nadu	9028	8755
23.	Tripura	136	147
24.	Uttar Pradesh	7881	8688
25.	West Bengal	3144	3364
TOTA	STATES	67174	71546
26.	A & N Islands	13	16
27.	Chandigarh	128	149
28.	D&N Haveli	34	40
29.	Daman & Diu	15	14
30.	Delhi	2328	2304
31.	Lakshadweep	0	0
32.	Pondicherry	108	135
TOTAL (UTS)		2626	2658
TOTAL (ALL-INDIA)		69800	74204

NB: Similar information for the year 1998 is not yet available.

Infusing Sense of Security among Women

2382. DR. (Ms.) P. SELVIE DAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Asian Age (Delhi edition) of 29th December, 1998 under the caption, "Delhi is not safe for women, says NCW member";

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what corrective measures have been taken to infuse a sense of security amongst women folk?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news-item in question referred, inter-alia, to a statement reported to have been made by one of the members of the National Commission for Women that the increasing incidents of eve-teasing, rape and other gender-based violence in Delhi was a matter of concern, 'but the campaign against such gender-based violence in Delhi and other parts of the country was successful in raising awareness about the issue.

(c) The measures taken by Delhi Police to prevent crimes against women in Delhi have been listed in the statement below.

Statement

1. Policemen are detailed on duty outside girls colleges and schools and also at important market places, bus steps and other places frequented by women to check cases of eve-teasing.
2. Special drives are launched against eve-teasing in buses. Policemen are also deployed in running buses check eve-teasing. During Holi and other festivals, special drives are launched.
3. Close liaison is maintained with the Non-Governmental Organisations and legal forums to bring about better awareness amongst the public.
4. The Crime Against Women Cell imparts training in unarmed combat to women and girls in schools, colleges and